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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, DECEMBER 17, 1997

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.,

At the relation of the

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. PUC970135

Ex Parte, in re: Implementation
of Requirements of § 214(e)
of the Telecommunications Act
of 1996

ORDER GRANTING WAIVER

On November 21, 1997, the Commission entered an Order permitting local exchange carriers operating in Virginia to certify their eligibility for designation, pursuant to Section 214(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. § 251 et seq., (the “Act”), to receive universal service support and the service area for such designation. Appropriate certifications have now been filed by each local carrier seeking such designation and the Commission will accept each certification and designation.

One issue remains. Among the services each carrier must offer in order to qualify for designation is “toll limitation for qualifying low-income customers.”¹ Federal regulations² define “toll limitation” to denote both toll blocking and toll control. A number of carriers indicated they offered toll limitation service in the form of toll blocking, but that facilities and technologies necessary for the real-time implementation of toll control were not yet available. Accordingly, several carriers requested a waiver,³ under 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(c), of the requirement for implementation of toll control service.⁴ In addition, the Virginia Telecommunications Industry Association, in a letter filed in this docket on December 15, 1997, stated that it fully supports such waiver. The Commission finds good cause has been shown for granting the requested waiver.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) All carriers on the attached list are designated to be eligible telecommunications carriers for service in the areas indicated.
- (2) Each carrier on the attached list is granted a waiver of any requirement for implementation of toll

control service for a period to be determined by the Commission or until further orders of the Commission.

(3) The matter is continued generally.

**VIRGINIA STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CARRIERS AS OF JANUARY 1, 1998**

Designated Eligible Carrier	Designated Service Area
1. Amelia Telephone Corporation	Existing service territory in Virginia
2. Buggs Island Telephone Cooperative	Existing service territory in Virginia
3. Burke's Garden Telephone Company, Inc.	Existing service territory in Virginia
4. Citizen's Telephone Cooperative	Existing service territory in Virginia
5. CFW Telephone Company	Existing service territory in Virginia
6. GTE South, Incorporated	Existing service territory in Virginia
7. Highland Telephone Cooperative	Existing service territory in Virginia
8. MGW Telephone Company	Existing service territory in Virginia
9. New Castle Telephone Company	Existing service territory in Virginia
10. New Hope Telephone Company	Existing service territory in Virginia
11. North River Telephone Cooperative	Existing service territory in Virginia
12. Pembroke Telephone Cooperative	Existing service territory in Virginia
13. Peoples Mutual Telephone Company, Inc.	Existing service territory in Virginia
14. R&B Telephone	Existing service territory in Virginia
15. Scott County Telephone Cooperative	Existing service territory in Virginia
16. Shenandoah Telephone Company	Existing service territory in Virginia
17. Central Telephone Company of Virginia	Existing service territory in Virginia
18. United Telephone-Southeast Inc.	Existing service territory in Virginia
19. Virginia Telephone Company	Existing service territory in Virginia
20. Bell Atlantic - Virginia, Inc.	Existing service territory in Virginia

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 54.101 (a).

² 47 C.F.R. § 54.400 (4).

³ For example, see Request for Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and Petition for Waiver of Toll Control, filed December 3, 1997, by United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.. On December 16, 1997, the TDS TELECOM Companies (Amelia Telephone Company, New Castle Telephone Company, and Virginia Telephone Company) filed their Petition for Waiver of Toll Control.

⁴ Bell Atlantic-Virginia, Inc. maintains that either form of toll limitation will qualify, and has petitioned the FCC to clarify Paragraph 385 of its Report and Order to specify this.